

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system, comprising:

a primary station operable to transmit a random access channel status message indicating an availability of that includes an indicated highest available data rate on each random access channel of a plurality of random access channels resources; and

a plurality of secondary stations operable to receive the random access channel status message, wherein each secondary station is further operable to determine which random access channel resources to request based on the random access channel status message; wherein said primary station is further operable to dynamically allocate a bit rate to only a single random access channel, irrespective of the allocated bit rate, in response to a request for at least one random access channel resource from one of said plurality of secondary stations, the dynamically allocated bit rate being lower than an available bit rate of the channel; and wherein the random access channel status message further indicates which data rates are available on a first random access channel.

16-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

19. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

20. (Currently Amended) A primary station, comprising:

means for transmitting a transmitter that is configured to transmit a random access channel status message to a plurality of secondary stations, and
a controller that is configured to:

determine an availability of each of a plurality of random access channels,

determine a highest available date rate for each available channel of the plurality of random access channels, and

create the random access status message that includes an indicated highest available data rate for each of the plurality of random access channels,
wherein the random access channel status message indicates an availability of random access channel resources; and means for dynamically allocating a bit rate to only a single random access channel, the dynamically allocated bit rate being lower than an available bit rate of the channel, irrespective of the allocated bit rate, in response to a request from one of said plurality of secondary stations for at least one random access channel resource based on the random access channel status message; wherein the random access channel status message further indicates which data rates are available on a first random access channel.

21-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The primary station of claim 20, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

24. (Previously Presented) The primary station of claim 20, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

25. (Currently Amended) A secondary station, comprising:

means for receiving a receiver that is configured to receive a random access channel status message from a primary station, wherein the random access channel status message includes an indicated highest available data rate for each of a plurality of random access channels;

a controller that is configured to:

select a selected random access channel from the plurality of random access channels, based on the indicated available data rates, and

create an access request for the selected random access channel; and
a transmitter that is configured to transmit the access request to the primary station indicates an availability of random access channel resources and further indicates a dynamic allocation of bit rates to random access channels by the primary station, the dynamically allocated bit rates being lower than available bit rates of the channels; and means for requesting only a single random access channel from the primary station, irrespective of the dynamically allocated bit rate, based on the random access channel status message; wherein the random access channel status message further indicates which data rates are available on a first random access channel.

26-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The secondary station of claim 25, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

29. (Previously Presented) The secondary station of claim 25, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

30. (Currently Amended) A radio communication method, comprising:

transmitting from a primary station, a random access channel status message indicating the availability of random access channel resources that includes an indicated highest data rate of each of a plurality of random access channels;

receiving, at a secondary station, the random access channel status message; determining selecting, at the secondary station, what random access channel resources are available at the primary station a selected random access channel based on the received random access channel status message;

requesting, at by the secondary station, a the selected random access channel resource from the primary station based on the determination; and dynamically allocating a bit rate at the primary station to only a single random access channel, irrespective of the dynamically allocated bit rate, in response to the request for the random access channel resource from the secondary station, the dynamically allocated bit rate being lower than an available bit rate of the channel; wherein the random access channel status message further indicates which data rates are available on a first random access channel.

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31-32 (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

34. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

35. (New) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether the corresponding random access channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

36. (New) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.

37. (New) The primary station of claim 20, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether the corresponding random access channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

38. (New) The primary station of claim 20, wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.

39. (New) The secondary station of claim 25, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether a channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

40. (New) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether a channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

41. (New) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.